

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

Claims 1 through 14 (Cancelled)

15.(Currently amended) A screw connection for at least two hinge parts, comprising a screw configured for interconnecting the at least two hinge parts, wherein the hinge parts engage one inside the other and have an upper hinge lobe, a lower hinge lobe, and at least one middle hinge lobe, said screw having a screw head and a screw shank that extends through a first through opening in the upper hinge lobe and extends through a second through opening in the middle hinge lobe, with a thread permitting the screw shank to be screwed into the lower hinge lobe, and comprising a sleeve that surrounds the screw shank, has elastic properties, and interacts with the upper and middle hinge lobes when the screw is in a screwed-in state, whereby the diameter of the second through opening is less than or equal to the diameter of the first through opening, and the screw has at least one bearing surface for contacting the sleeve with at least one engaging surface that is aligned in the direction of movement in which the screw is unscrewed, the improvement comprising:

the screw shank having an annular collar that, in the screwed-in state is situated in the middle hinge lobe, said annular collar providing said at least one engaging surface to retain and support said sleeve thereagainst when said screw shank and sleeve are removed from said middle lobe; and wherein the annular collar acts as a guide collar for insertion of said screw into said second through opening in said middle lobe and wherein in the circumferential surface of the first through opening is provided at least one longitudinal groove, running parallel or essentially parallel to the direction of movement in which the screw is screwed and unscrewed for protecting the sleeve from twisting.

Claims 16-33 (Cancelled)

34.(Previously presented) A screw connection for at least two hinge parts, comprising:

at least two hinge parts which engage one inside the other and comprise an upper hinge lobe with a first through opening the circumferential surface of which has at least one longitudinal groove, a lower hinge lobe, and at least one middle hinge lobe having a second through opening, each of the through openings having a diameter and the diameter of the second through opening being less than or equal to the diameter of the first through opening;

a screw configured for interconnecting the at least two hinge parts, said screw having a screw head and a screw shank that extends through the first through opening in the upper hinge lobe and extends through the second through opening in the middle hinge lobe, with a thread permitting the screw shank to be screwed into the lower hinge lobe, the screw having a screwed in state, and the screw having at least one bearing surface and an annular collar with at least one engaging surface that is aligned in the direction of movement in which the screw is unscrewed, the annular collar, when in the screwed-in state, being situated in the second through opening of the middle hinge lobe, thereby providing a guide member for insertion of said screw into said second through opening; and

a sleeve with elastic properties that surrounds the screw shank and is engaged and supported by said at least one engaging surface of said annular collar, said sleeve being positioned to interact with the upper and middle hinge lobes when the screw is in the screwed-in state, and is protected from twisting by said longitudinal groove in said first opening, which longitudinal groove runs essentially parallel to the direction of movement of said screw.

Claims 35-43 (Cancelled)

44.(Previously presented) The screw connection according to claim 34 wherein the sleeve on its end opposite from the annular collar is constructed to be supported directly on the underside of the screw head or on a cylindrical projection.

45.(Previously presented) The screw connection according to claim 44 wherein the diameter of the screw head or the diameter of the cylindrical projection is less than the diameter of the first through opening.

46.(Previously presented) The screw connection according to claim 34, wherein the sleeve in the screwed-in state is deformed in such a way that the sleeve material is pressed into an annular space formed between the screw shank and the second through opening.

Claim 47 (Cancelled)

48.(Previously presented) The screw connection according to claim 46, wherein the sleeve material is pressed into at least one longitudinal groove formed in said first through opening parallel to or essentially parallel to the direction of movement in which the screw is screwed and unscrewed.

Claim 49 (Cancelled)

50.(Previously presented) A screw connection for at least two hinge parts, comprising a screw configured for interconnecting the at least two hinge parts, wherein the hinge parts engage one inside the other and have an upper hinge lobe, a lower hinge lobe, and at least one middle hinge lobe, said screw having a screw head and a screw shank that extends through a first through opening in the upper hinge lobe and extends through a second through opening in the middle hinge lobe, with a thread permitting the screw shank to be screwed into the lower hinge lobe, and comprising a

sleeve that surrounds the screw shank, has elastic properties, and interacts with the upper and middle hinge lobes when the screw is in a screwed-in state, whereby the diameter of the second through opening is less than or equal to the diameter of the first through opening, and the screw has at least one bearing surface for contacting the sleeve with at least one engaging surface that is aligned in the direction of movement in which the screw is unscrewed, the improvement comprising:

the screw shank having an annular collar that, in the screwed-in state is situated in the middle hinge lobe, said annular collar providing said at least one engaging surface to retain and support said sleeve thereagainst, and wherein the first through opening, having a circumferential surface, is provided with at least one longitudinal groove in said circumferential surface running parallel or essentially parallel to the direction of movement in which the screw is screwed and unscrewed for protecting the sleeve from twisting.

51.(Previously presented) A screw connection for at least two hinge parts, comprising a screw configured for interconnecting the at least two hinge parts, wherein the hinge parts engage one inside the other and have an upper hinge lobe, a lower hinge lobe, and at least one middle hinge lobe, said screw having a screw head and a screw shank that extends through a first through opening in the upper hinge lobe and extends through a second through opening in the middle hinge lobe, with a thread permitting the screw shank to be screwed into the lower hinge lobe, and comprising a sleeve that surrounds the screw shank, has elastic properties, and interacts with the upper and middle hinge lobes when the screw is in a screwed-in state, whereby the diameter of the second through opening is less than or equal to the diameter of the first through opening, and the screw has at least one bearing surface for contacting the sleeve with at least one engaging surface that is aligned in the direction of movement in which the screw is unscrewed, the improvement comprising:

the screw shank having an annular collar that, in the screwed-in state is situated in the middle hinge lobe, said annular collar providing said at least one engaging

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surface to retain and support said sleeve thereagainst, and wherein the second through opening has an annular cross section and a circumferential wall, and wherein at least a portion of said circumferential wall that faces toward the screw head in conically tapered.